

Applicant Name	Fort Peck Tribes
Project Name	D-4 Drain Water Conservation Improvements

Project Abstract

The Fort Peck Tribes and the Fort Peck Water Users Association are working together to improve the beneficial use of the Fort Peck Irrigation Project. The proposed project will address issues of water conservation, water shortage in the eastern portion of the Wolf Point-Frazer Unit, and drainage issues in the area of Drain D-4.

Drain D-4 empties into the Missouri about seven miles west of Wolf Point immediately after it passes underneath Lateral 42-M, carrying significant flow throughout the irrigation season. This project seeks to impound the flow of Drain D-4 with a riprap dam just before it empties into the Missouri and pump it back into Lateral 42-M. Drain D-4 has good storage potential at this location and only minor earthwork will be necessary. Preliminary studies show that at continuous pumping rates of an average of 10 cubic feet per second, approximately 1,800 to 3,600 acre-feet of water per year will be conserved within the Fort Peck Irrigation Project.

Major objectives addressed by this improvement include:

- Conservation of irrigation water for reuse;
- Increase of water supply for irrigation-classified tracts without suitable water supply, providing for better management of the system, and preserving the beneficial use of those farm lands;
- Supply of water for development of additional irrigated tracts currently idle; and
- Preservation of Missouri River water quality by reducing or eliminating agricultural drainage.

The proposed project is an important part of the improvement of the Fort Peck Irrigation System. Increased water supply will allow farmers to convert idle land to irrigated lands and to retain the beneficial use of currently irrigated lands. This will generate a greater revenue stream from farming, which, in turn, has the potential to stimulate the area economy.